

### **QAA Subject Benchmark Update**

The Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) publishes benchmark statements setting out expectations about standards of degrees in a range of subject disciplines. The benchmark statements are a key reference point in programme development and review.

The QAA are in the process of producing new and revised benchmark statements for some subjects. They are invite stakeholders to contribute to the revision process for existing statements; a schedule outlining the phases of the review has been published.

This paper outlines details of the:

- Publication of new and updated Subject Benchmark Statements for Biosciences and Biomedical Sciences
- Current consultation for the Sociology Benchmark Statement and further Statements undergoing review during the next year

### **Recommended Action**

Education & Student Committee is asked to:

- a) **note** the publication of new Subject Benchmark Statements
- b) **note** the QAA's current consultation and proposed subject areas for review in the next year
- c) **note** the QAA's invitation for stakeholders to engage with the review of benchmark statements

## REVISED SUBJECT BENCHMARK STATEMENTS 2015

- **Biosciences**

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/publications/information-and-guidance/publication/?PubID=3012#.Vqt3QVInmao>

- **Biomedical Sciences**

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/publications/information-and-guidance/publication/?PubID=3013#.Vqt3aFlInmao>

## CONSULTATIONS ON DRAFT REVISED BENCHMARK STATEMENTS

- **Sociology:** draft for consultation open until 18 March 2016

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/newsroom/consultations/consultation-on-draft-subject-benchmark-statement-for-sociology#.Vqt2j1Inmap>

## Subject Benchmark Statement Review 2013-16 – Phase 3 from July 2015 to July 2016

QAA seek feedback from users of Benchmark Statements and others with an interest in higher education - feedback about any aspect which needs updating in individual Statements can be sent to via their [contact us form](#). Any feedback received will be taken into consideration when deciding how individual Statements need to be revised. Development of new Statements will continue during the course of the review.

During the course of the review process, QAA will contact professional, statutory and regulatory bodies along with any subject associations and networks with an invitation to be involved in the review of the relevant Benchmark Statement. If you would like to signal a particular interest in this, please send contact details to the address above.

Phase 3 includes the review of following Benchmark Statements:

- Communication, media, film and cultural studies
- Construction, property and surveying
- Health studies
- Materials
- Music
- Psychology
- Social Work